(c) the number of people employed in this industry, State-wise;

(d) whether Government is considering to provide any assistance to the people employed in this industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Government has continued to encourage khadi and village industries in the country and some of the important steps taken by Government during the last three years to encourage khadi and village industries include.

(i) Amendments to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Act, 1956, to revamp the KVIC.

(ii) Constitution of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during July, 2006 for the development of Khadi and Village Industries in the country.

(iii) Constitution of National Khadi and Village Industries Board (NKVIB) during March 2007 to advise KVIC in its functioning.

(iv) Continued implementation of Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) which was introduced during 1995-96, to assit the setting up of village industry units in the rural areas, including small towns with population upto 20,000.

(v) Introduction of the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for development of around 100 clusters of the traditional industries for enhanced competitiveness and employment of artisans and rural enterpreneurs.

(vi) Continued implementation of the Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme introduced in 2003-04 for improved design and packaging of khadi and village industry products.

(vii) Continued implementation of the Group Insurance Scheme, (Khadi Karigar Janashree Bima Yojana), which was introduced with effect from 15 August 2003 for the benefit of khadi workers/artisans.

(viii) Implementation of the Ready to Use Mission for Khadi Products to convert khadi fabric into ready-made garments for higher value addition.

(ix) Ensuring the availability of quality raw materials for khadi production through six Central Silver Plants of KVIC, etc.

(b) Government allocates funds to the KVIC for implementation of schemes for the promotion and development of khadi and village industries. The KVIC, in turn, allocates the funds, inter-alia, to the Khadi and Village Industries Boards of the States/Union Territories, registered khadi institutions, etc.

(c) The State/Union Territory-wise estimates of the number of persons employed in the khadi and village industry sector at the end of March, 2007 are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(d) and (e) For implementation of schemes for the promotion and development of the khadi and village industry sector, the Government has made a Plan provision of Rs. 1149 crore during 2008-09.

Statement

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of employment under the Khadi and Village Industries sector up to the end of March 2007

SK	4o. States/UTs	Employment (lakh persons)
I	Chandigarh Delhi	0.15 031
1.	Haryana Himachal	2.45 1.63
2.	Pradesh	
3		
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.89
6.	Punjab	2.86
7.	Rajasthan	7.04
8.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	020
9.	Bihar	2.98
10.	Jharkhand	035
11.	Orissa	2.61
12.	West Bengal	6.44
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.07
14.	Assam	2.48
15.	Manipur	0.66
16.	Meghalaya	035
17.	Mizoram	0.64
18.	Nagaland	0.44
19.	Tripura	0.45
20.	Skkim	0.19
21.	Andhra Pradesh	6.18
22.	Karnataka	3.62
23.	Kerala	3.63
24.	Lakshadweep	0.01
25.	Puducherry	0.08
26.	Tamil Nadu	1321
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.01
28.	Goa	0.16
29.	Gujarat	1.52
30.	Maharashtra	6.47
31.	Chhattisgarh	0.83
32.	Madhya Pradesh	3.09
33.	Uttarakhand	0.86
34.	Uttar Pradesh	15.06
	GRAND	88.92

Closure of SSI Units

885. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of SSI units have become sick and closed because of the competition from multinational and other major industries;

(b) if so, the number of such units closed during the last three years;

(c) whether Government has any action plan to strengthen the SSI sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has no information on the number of micro and small enterprises (MSE) (erstwhile SSI units) which have became sick and closed because of competition from multinational and other major industries. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on the sick MSEs who have availed loans from scheduled commercial banks. Accordingly to RBI, the number of sick MSEs during 2004-05,2005-06 and 2006-07 were 1,38,041, 1,26,824 and 1,14,132 respectively.

(c) and (d) Promotion and development of MSMEs is primarily the responsibility of State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments. To assist the States/UTs and supplement their efforts in this regard, the Central Government implements several schemes/programmes for promotion and development of MSEs. These, *inter alia,* include, (i) facilitating availability of credit mainly through public sector banks/institutions, (ii) assistance for (a) technology upgradation, (b) marketing, (c) integrated infrastructural development, (d) comprehensive need-based development of clusters, and (iii) entrepreneurship development.

Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises and enhancement of their competitiveness. The Act has come into effect from 2nd October, 2006.

Revival of leaf-cup/plate industry

886. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to revive the traditional leaf-cup/plate making as a self-employment option in a big way to generate additional employment opportunities in the country especially in the tribal dominated regions, to improve their economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to help the Orissa Government both physically and financially to develop this sector for the tribal community of this region?

THE MINISTEROF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has been implementing *inter alia* the Rural Employment Generation Programme